United Nations S/2004/220

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 March 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to request you to convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the latest outbreak of violence in Kosovo and Metohija. The situation is extremely grave in Mitrovica, Čaglavica, Brezovica, Kosovo Polje, Štrpce, Gnjilane and other places in the Province. All Serb enclaves are encircled. Several people have been killed and hundreds injured including Kosovo Force (KFOR) officers.

These events clearly point to a serious deterioration of the security situation which, in the view of my Government, requires immediate action by the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Roksanda **Ninčić**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

04-27447 (E) 170304

United Nations S/2004/221

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 March 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 15 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Enforcement of Sentences of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, signed on 11 March 2004 at The Hague (see annex).

In accordance with article 12, the Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after signature, on 10 April 2004.

In accordance with article 27 of the Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hereby submits its formal indication to the Security Council of its willingness to accept convicted persons for the enforcement of sentences in the United Kingdom, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and from the date of its entry into force.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**

04-27718 (E) 220304

Annex to the letter dated 15 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the enforcement of sentences of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

The United Nations, acting through the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, hereinafter referred to as "the International Tribunal", and The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, hereinafter referred to as "the United Kingdom";

RECALLING Article 27 of the Statute of the International Tribunal adopted by Security Council resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, according to which imprisonment of persons sentenced by the International Tribunal shall be served in a State designated by the International Tribunal from a list of States which have indicated to the Security Council their willingness to accept convicted persons;

NOTING the willingness of the United Kingdom to enforce sentences imposed by the International Tribunal;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Purpose and Scope of the Agreement

This Agreement shall regulate matters relating to or arising out of all requests to the United Kingdom to enforce sentences imposed by the International Tribunal.

Article 2

Procedure

1. A request to the United Kingdom to enforce a sentence shall be made by the Registrar of the International Tribunal (hereinafter "the Registrar"), with the approval of the President of the International Tribunal (hereinafter "the President").

2. The Registrar shall submit the request to the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through the British Embassy in The Hague.

3. The Registrar shall provide the following documents to United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office when making the request:

a) a certified copy of the judgement;

b) details of the offences to which the sentence of imprisonment relates;

c) a statement indicating how much of the sentence has already been served, including information on any pre-trial detention, any other measure altering the length or conditions of the sentence and any other factors relevant to the enforcement of the sentence;

d) when appropriate, any medical or psychological reports on the sentenced person, any recommendation for his further treatment in the United Kingdom and any other report relevant to the enforcement of the sentence; and

e) the name, date and place of birth of the sentenced person together with any known family or other ties with the United Kingdom or any other reason for making the request.

4. The competent national authorities of the United Kingdom shall decide upon any such request of the Registrar, in accordance with its national law, and the United Kingdom shall promptly inform the International Tribunal whether or not it agrees to the request.

Article 3

Enforcement

1. In enforcing the sentence pronounced by the International Tribunal, the competent national authorities of the United Kingdom shall be bound by the duration of the sentence.

2. The conditions of imprisonment shall be governed by the law of the United Kingdom, subject to the supervision of the International Tribunal, as provided for in Articles 6 to 9 of this Agreement.

3. The conditions of imprisonment shall be equivalent to those applicable to prisoners serving sentences under the law of the United Kingdom and shall be in accordance with relevant human rights standards.

Article 4

Transfer of the Convicted Person

The Registrar shall make appropriate arrangements with the United Kingdom for the transfer of the convicted person from the International Tribunal to the competent authorities of the United Kingdom. Prior to his transfer, the convicted person will be informed by the Registrar of the contents of this Agreement. The transfer shall take place at a time and place agreed between the United Kingdom and the Registrar.

Article 5

Non-bis-in-idem (rule of speciality)

The convicted person shall not be tried before a court in the United Kingdom for acts constituting serious violations of international humanitarian law under the Statute of the International Tribunal, for which he has already been tried by the International Tribunal.

Article 6

Inspection

1. The competent authorities of the United Kingdom shall allow the inspection of the conditions of detention and treatment of the prisoners, detained under this Agreement, by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereinafter "the CPT") at any time and on a periodic basis, the frequency of visits to be determined by the CPT. The CPT will submit a confidential report based on the findings of these inspections to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and to the President of the International Tribunal. The confidential report shall not be released, by the President of the International Tribunal to any person or body, without the consent of the Government of the United Kingdom.

2. The United Kingdom and the President shall consult each other on the findings of the reports referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The President may thereafter request the United Kingdom to report to him or her any changes in the conditions of detention suggested by the CPT.

Article 7

Information

1. The United Kingdom shall immediately notify the Registrar:

a) six months prior to the completion of the sentence;

b) if the sentenced person has escaped from custody before the sentence has been completed;

c) if the sentenced person has deceased; and

d) six months prior to the point at which early release would be considered for an equivalent domestic sentence in the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom to which the sentenced person has been transferred.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this Article, the Registrar and the United Kingdom shall consult each other on all matters relating to the enforcement of the sentence upon the request of either Party.

3. The Registrar shall, during the course of enforcement of any sentence under this Agreement, provide the United Kingdom with any report or other information requested by the United Kingdom, which is relevant to the enforcement of such a sentence and within the possession of the Registrar.

Article 8

Early release, pardon and commutation of sentences

1. If, pursuant to the applicable national law of the United Kingdom, the sentenced person is eligible for early release, pardon or commutation of the sentence, the United Kingdom shall notify this to the Registrar, in advance of such eligibility, and shall include in any such notification all the circumstances pertaining to the eligibility for early release, pardon or commutation of the sentence.

2. The President of the International Tribunal shall determine, in consultation with the Judges of the International Tribunal, whether any early release, pardon or commutation of the sentence is appropriate. The Registrar shall inform the United Kingdom of the President's determination. If the President determines that an early release, pardon or commutation of the sentence is not appropriate, the United Kingdom shall act accordingly.

Article 9

Termination of enforcement

1. The enforcement of the sentence shall cease:

   a) when the sentence has been completed,

   b) upon the death of the sentenced person;

   c) upon the pardon or commutation of the sentenced person; or

   d) following a decision of the Tribunal referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. The International Tribunal may at any time decide to request the termination of the enforcement of the sentence in the United Kingdom and transfer the sentenced person to another State or to the International Tribunal.

3. The competent authorities of the United Kingdom shall terminate the enforcement of the sentence as soon as they are informed by the Registrar of any decision or measure as a result of which the sentence shall cease to be enforceable.

4. After the enforcement of the sentence has ceased in accordance with this Agreement, the United Kingdom may transfer or deport the convicted person as appropriate and in accordance with its international obligations.

Article 10

Impossibility of enforcement of sentence

If, at any time after the decision has been taken to enforce the sentence, for any legal or practical reasons, further enforcement has become impossible, the United Kingdom shall promptly inform the Registrar. The Registrar shall make the appropriate arrangements for the transfer of the sentenced person. The competent authorities of the United Kingdom shall allow at least sixty days following the notification of the Registrar before taking further action on the matter.

Article 11

Costs

The International Tribunal shall bear the expenses related to the transfer of the sentenced person to and from the United Kingdom, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The United Kingdom shall pay all other expenses incurred in the enforcement of the sentence.

Article 12

Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after signature by the International Tribunal and the United Kingdom.

Article 13

Duration of the Agreement

1. This Agreement shall remain in force as long as sentences of the International Tribunal are being enforced by the United Kingdom under the terms and conditions provided in this Agreement.

2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement following consultations with the other Party and after the expiry of two months from the date on which written notice has been given by the terminating Party to the other Party. This Agreement shall not be terminated before any sentences to which this Agreement applies have been completed or terminated in accordance with this Agreement nor before any sentenced individual has been transferred or deported from the United Kingdom subsequent to the completion or termination of such a sentence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

Done at this day of , 2004, in duplicate, in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Her Majesty's Ambassador
The Hague

Deputy Registrar
International Criminal Tribunal
for the former Yugoslavia

United Nations S/2004/222

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 March 2004
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, the text of a communication dated 2 March 2004 I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the Members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**

04-27678 (E) 190304 190304

Annex

Letter dated 2 March 2004 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

[Original: English]

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1386 and 1510, I attach a report on ISAF operations covering the period 12 November 2003 to 12 February 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap de **Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Quarterly report to the United Nations on ISAF Operations

1. This report covers the period from 12 November 2003 to 12 February 2004. As of 10 February, ISAF total strength was 6,264 including 233 troops from 11 non-NATO nations.

2. Minister Hikmet Cetin assumed his duty as NATO Senior Civil Representative in Afghanistan on 25 January 2004. He will be responsible for carrying forward the political-military aspects of the Alliance's assistance to the Afghan Transitional Authority in fulfilling the Bonn Agreement commitments.

Status of Partner/Non-NATO Contributing Nations

3. As of 10 February, a total of 19 NATO nations and 11 non-NATO nations are contributing to the ISAF mission.

Security

4. The security situation in Kabul and its environs (Kabul Area of Operations) is characterized as generally calm, but not stable. On 27 and 28 January 2004, two suicide attacks occurred against Canadian and United Kingdom ISAF patrols, which resulted in the deaths of one Canadian and one British soldier, with six others ISAF soldiers severely wounded. Numerous warnings continue to be received. Nevertheless, ISAF has continued to execute its framework security tasks in association with the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Kabul City Police (KCP).

5. ISAF has assumed responsibility for the German PRT operations in Konduz on 30 December 2003. The security situation in the Konduz Area of Operations is assessed as calm, but not stable. Although the Opposition Militia Forces (OMF) have no organized presence there, the area is nonetheless of interest to the OMF since it is at the centre of narcotics production. The local infrastructure is fragile, the police have limited authority, and factional/tribal frictions continue to undermine security. Execution of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in Konduz, as one of the Pilot Projects, has led to no significant increase in tension.

Support to the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA)

A. Support to the Bonn Agreement Process

6. The ISAF assistance to the Bonn Agreement Process includes:

(a) The Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ) was conducted by the ATA from 14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004. ISAF provided second-tier security support to the CLJ and also took a lead in planning by coordinating a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to respond to any security incidents, an extensive search and explosive ordnance clearance of the site, and Information Operations to the event. ISAF also provided standby emergency medical.

(b) On 30 December 2003, ISAF made the first step in expanding its supporting role to the ATA by taking responsibility for the PRT in Konduz. This will facilitate the expansion of the influence of the ATA into provinces beyond the Capital.

(c) ISAF has been supporting the Voter Registration Process in Kabul since its start on 1 December 2003, with second-tier security support provided on request, within its means and capabilities.

(d) ISAF shares the general concern as to whether the registration process will be sufficiently advanced in time for elections in June 2004. ISAF has nonetheless contributed to the planning process. ISAF's exact role and the nature of the security assistance required, based on the proposed Joint Election Management Body (JEMB) OPLAN, remain to be determined, taking into account the primary role of UNAMA and the ATA in the organization and safety of the election process.

B. Support to Security Sector Reform (SSR)

7. With the addition of Herat and Jalalabad, the DDR process now comprises eight pilot projects.

(a) The ISAF-assisted DDR pilot project in Kabul was completed on 29 January 2004, with 1,797 Afghan Militia Forces (AMF) soldiers formally disarmed. Discussions are currently under way between the Afghan Ministry of Defence and HQ ISAF staff to assess how best to maintain the momentum created by the pilot project so that a smooth transition can be achieved to the more substantial DDR campaign proper.

(b) Pilot projects are ongoing in Konduz and Gardez; preparations for the launch of DDR in Mazar-e-Sharif are well under way, and planning for the Bamyan DDR programme has started. The Pilot Programme in Kandahar is currently scheduled to begin at the end of February.

(c) Although DDR makes provision for heavy weapons, it does not target them specifically. ISAF has initiated a Heavy Weapons Cantonment (HWC) programme to secure heavy weapons from Kabul city and its environs. Planned and executed in close cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Defence, and gaining broad support, this is a confidence-building measure aimed at both internal and external audiences and will improve the security situation in Kabul. An agreement was signed between ISAF and the Afghan Ministry of Defence on 12 January and the HWC started officially in Kabul on 15 January, with the first convoy movement of heavy weapons. The next HWC project began on 10 February. HWC and DDR programmes continue to run in parallel and are mutually supporting.

8. ISAF continued to support ANA training through the provision of mobile training teams, focusing on training for artillery, EOD and medical care. Embedded training teams and a "mentor" programme will assist the leadership and professional development of ANA Headquarters and counterparts units. Further training opportunities are under consideration.

9. Enhancing the capability and authority of the Afghan national police force remains critical to extending both the rule of law and the authority of the central government. In Kabul, ISAF continues to contribute to the German-led police development programme through joint patrolling and assisting with an internal

organizational review of the KCP. ISAF has also provided basic police and weapon training to the Border Police at Kabul International Airport (KAIA).

10. The Joint Security Coordination Center (JSCC) established under ISAF direction on 22 September 2003 continues to enjoy modest success in encouraging the disparate ATA agencies in Kabul to coordinate on security matters. The order formalizing the JSCC's status combined with ISAF's aggressive lead in bringing the various ATA organizations together promises an improvement in both coordination and ATA-led security operations within Kabul.

11. ISAF supported the United Kingdom-led counter narcotics programme with accommodation and close protection for the teams engaged in training the ATA counter-narcotics forces in Kabul.

12. Judicial reform, essential for the establishment of the rule of law, is critically linked to the Bonn Agreement pillars, particularly for police training and counter narcotics. Additionally, ISAF continues to work closely with the ATA Ministries to identify and address issues that impact directly upon the rule of law.

Attacks against ISAF and ISAF Operational Activities

13. There have been nine attacks on ISAF since 11 November 2003. Five of these attacks, which included rockets and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), occurred in December 2003 with no fatalities. Three attacks occurred in January 2004; explosions south of KAIA and in Kandahar, and two suicide attacks near the Canadian Camp Julien and the United Kingdom Camp Souter killed 17 Afghanis and two ISAF soldiers. On 3 February, there were two explosions from rockets launched from the south-eastern part of Kabul. No casualties or damage were sustained.

14. Germany, as lead nation, has continued to run KAIA since NATO took over the ISAF operation. This airport is used primarily by military or international community contracted aircraft. Currently, commercial use of KAIA is limited to the Afghan national carrier. A common approach of the international community with respect to KAIA's rehabilitation is crucial. In order to expedite this process, NATO will contribute to a framework document created by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the rehabilitation of KAIA. In a next step, the Afghan Authorities' approval for this framework will be sought. A KAIA transition plan has been developed to ensure a phased transition from Germany to NATO. The transition began on 11 February and is schedule to be complete by June 2004.

Outlook

15. Based on UN Security Council Resolution 1510, and as approved by the North Atlantic Council, planning continues on ISAF expansion that will support and strengthen ATA's ability to provide a more secure environment for its people and for its governmental processes. ISAF has continued to fulfil its mandate to assist the ATA in the provision of security in mandated Areas of Operations. There is a risk that the security environment will deteriorate in localized areas, particularly in conjunction with the preparations and conduct of elections planned for Summer 2004. Security in both the Kabul and Konduz Areas of Operations is expected to

improve in the medium and long term. ISAF remains active in SSR, in its support to the ANA and ATA security agencies. Following the success of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, ISAF assistance to the ATA with the Bonn Agreement Process is now focused on the forthcoming elections programme.

United Nations S/2004/222*

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2004
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, the text of a communication dated 2 March 2004 I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**

* Reissued for technical reasons.

04-27678 (E)* 190304 310304

Annex

Letter dated 2 March 2004 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1386 (2001) and 1510 (2003), I attach a report on ISAF operations covering the period from 12 November 2003 to 12 February 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap de **Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Quarterly report to the United Nations on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan

1. This report covers the period from 12 November 2003 to 12 February 2004. As at 10 February, the total strength of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was 6,264, including 233 troops from 11 non-NATO countries.

2. Minister Hikmet Cetin assumed his duties as NATO Senior Civil Representative in Afghanistan on 25 January 2004. He will be responsible for carrying forward the political-military aspects of the Alliance's assistance to the Afghan Transitional Authority in fulfilling the commitments under the Bonn Agreement.

Status of partner/non-NATO contributing countries

3. As at 10 February, a total of 19 NATO countries and 11 non-NATO countries are contributing to the ISAF mission.

Security

4. The security situation in Kabul and its environs (Kabul area of operations) is characterized as generally calm, but not stable. On 27 and 28 January 2004, two suicide attacks occurred against Canadian and United Kingdom ISAF patrols, which resulted in the deaths of one Canadian and one British soldier; six other ISAF soldiers were severely wounded. Numerous warnings continue to be received. Nevertheless, ISAF has continued to execute its framework security tasks in association with the Afghan National Army and the Kabul City Police.

5. ISAF assumed responsibility for the operations of the German provincial reconstruction team in Konduz on 30 December 2003. The security situation in the Konduz area of operations is assessed as calm, but not stable. Although the Opposition Militia Forces have no organized presence there, the area is nonetheless of interest to them since it is at the centre of narcotics production. The local infrastructure is fragile, the police have limited authority, and factional/tribal frictions continue to undermine security. Execution of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Konduz, as one of the pilot projects, has led to no significant increase in tension.

Support to the Afghan Transitional Authority and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

A. Support to the Bonn Agreement process

6. ISAF assistance to the Bonn Agreement process includes:

(a) The Constitutional Loya Jirga was conducted by the Afghan Transitional Authority from 14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004. ISAF provided second-tier security support and also took a lead in planning by coordinating a quick reaction force to respond to any security incidents, an extensive search and explosive

ordnance clearance of the site, and information operations for the event. ISAF also provided standby emergency medical services.

(b) On 30 December 2003, ISAF took the first step in expanding its supporting role to the Afghan Transitional Authority by taking responsibility for the provincial reconstruction team in Konduz. This will facilitate the expansion of the influence of the Afghan Transitional Authority into provinces beyond the capital.

(c) ISAF has been supporting the voter registration process in Kabul since its start on 1 December 2003, with second-tier security support provided on request, within its means and capabilities.

(d) ISAF shares the general concern whether the registration process will be sufficiently advanced in time for elections in June 2004. ISAF has nonetheless contributed to the planning process. The exact role of ISAF and the nature of the security assistance required, based on the proposed operation plan of the Joint Election Management Body, remain to be determined, taking into account the primary role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Afghan Transitional Authority in the organization and safety of the election process.

B. Support to security sector reform

7. With the addition of Herat and Jalalabad, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process now comprises eight pilot projects.

(a) The ISAF-assisted disarmament, demobilization and reintegration pilot project in Kabul was completed on 29 January 2004, with 1,797 Afghan Militia Force soldiers formally disarmed. Discussions are currently under way between the Afghan Ministry of Defence and the staff of ISAF headquarters to assess how best to maintain the momentum created by the pilot project so that a smooth transition can be achieved to the more substantial disarmament, demobilization and reintegration campaign proper.

(b) Pilot projects are ongoing in Konduz and Gardez; preparations for the launch of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Mazar-e-Sharif are well under way, and planning for the Bamian programme has started. The pilot programme in Kandahar is currently scheduled to begin at the end of February.

(c) Although the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme makes provision for heavy weapons, it does not target them specifically. ISAF has initiated a heavy weapons cantonment programme to secure heavy weapons from Kabul city and its environs. Planned and executed in close cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Defence, and gaining broad support, this is a confidence-building measure aimed at both internal and external audiences and will improve the security situation in Kabul. An agreement was signed between ISAF and the Afghan Ministry of Defence on 12 January and the heavy weapons cantonment started officially in Kabul on 15 January with the first convoy movement of heavy weapons. The next heavy weapons cantonment project began on 10 February. Heavy weapons cantonment and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes continue to run in parallel and are mutually supporting.

8. ISAF continued to support Afghan National Army training through the provision of mobile training teams, focusing on training for artillery, explosive

ordnance disposal and medical care. Embedded training teams and a "mentor" programme will assist the leadership and professional development of Afghan National Army headquarters and counterpart units. Further training opportunities are under consideration.

9. Enhancing the capability and authority of the Afghan national police force remains critical to extending both the rule of law and the authority of the central government. In Kabul, ISAF continues to contribute to the German-led police development programme through joint patrolling and assisting with an internal organizational review of the Kabul City Police. ISAF has also provided basic police and weapon training to the Border Police at Kabul International Airport.

10. The Joint Security Coordination Centre established under ISAF direction on 22 September 2003 continues to enjoy modest success in encouraging the disparate agencies of the Afghan Transitional Authority in Kabul to coordinate on security matters. The order formalizing the Centre's status combined with the aggressive lead of ISAF in bringing the various Afghan Transitional Authority organizations together promises an improvement in both coordination and security operations led by the Authority within Kabul.

11. ISAF supported the United Kingdom-led counter narcotics programme with accommodation and close protection for the teams engaged in training the Afghan Transitional Authority counter-narcotics forces in Kabul.

12. Judicial reform, essential for the establishment of the rule of law, is critically linked to the Bonn Agreement pillars, particularly for police training and counter narcotics. Additionally, ISAF continues to work closely with the Afghan Transitional Authority ministries to identify and address issues that impact directly upon the rule of law.

Attacks against ISAF and ISAF operational activities

13. There have been nine attacks on ISAF since 11 November 2003. Five of the attacks, which included rockets and improvised explosive devices, occurred in December 2003 with no fatalities. Three attacks occurred in January 2004; explosions south of the Kabul International Airport and in Kandahar, and two suicide attacks near the Canadian Camp Julien and the United Kingdom Camp Souter killed 17 Afghans and two ISAF soldiers. On 3 February, there were two explosions from rockets launched from the south-eastern part of Kabul. No casualties or damage were sustained.

14. Germany, as lead nation, has continued to run the Kabul International Airport since NATO took over the ISAF operation. The airport is used primarily by military or international community contracted aircraft. Currently, commercial use of the airport is limited to the Afghan national carrier. A common approach of the international community with respect to the airport's rehabilitation is crucial. In order to expedite this process, NATO will contribute to a framework document created by the International Civil Aviation Organization for the rehabilitation of the airport. In a next step, the Afghan authorities' approval for the framework will be sought. A transition plan for the airport has been developed to ensure a phased transition from Germany to NATO. The transition began on 11 February and is schedule to be complete by June 2004.

Outlook

15. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1510 (2003), and as approved by the North Atlantic Council, planning continues on ISAF expansion that will support and strengthen the ability of the Afghan Transitional Authority to provide a more secure environment for its people and for its governmental processes. ISAF has continued to fulfil its mandate to assist the Afghan Transitional Authority in the provision of security in mandated areas of operation. There is a risk that the security environment will deteriorate in localized areas, particularly in conjunction with the preparations for and conduct of elections planned for summer 2004. Security in both the Kabul and Konduz areas of operation is expected to improve in the medium and long term. ISAF remains active in security sector reform, in its support to the Afghan National Army and the Afghan Transitional Authority security agencies. Following the success of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, ISAF assistance to the Afghan Transitional Authority with the Bonn Agreement process is now focused on the forthcoming elections programme.

United Nations A/58/741–S/2004/223

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 March 2004

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 60
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 18 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Stockholm International Forum "Preventing Genocide: Threats and Responsibilities" was held in Stockholm from 26 to 28 January 2004. Your participation at the Forum was highly appreciated, as were your concrete proposals on the improvement of capacity for action. As you stated in your address to the Forum, there can be no more important issue, and no more binding obligation, than the prevention of genocide.

The Forum, organized and hosted by the Swedish Government, was the first major intergovernmental conference to address this topic since the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948. It brought together more than 1,000 delegates from 55 countries, international organizations, the academic world and non-governmental organizations.

I would be grateful if the present letter and the declaration of the Forum (see annex) could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 60, "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**

04-27744 (E) 220304

Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum 2004

The Holocaust, as reaffirmed by the declaration of the Stockholm International Forum of January 2000, challenged the foundations of human civilization. Recalling our responsibility to fight the evils of genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, anti-Semitism, islamophobia and xenophobia, we, the participants of the Stockholm International Forum 2004: Preventing Genocide: Threats and Responsibilities, conscious of our obligations and responsibilities under international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law, deeply concerned with the repeated occurrence of genocide, mass murder and ethnic cleansing in recent history as well as with the widespread occurrence of impunity for such crimes, are committed to doing our utmost for the prevention of these scourges in order to build a more secure future for us all.

To this end we declare that:

1. We are committed to using and developing practical tools and mechanisms to identify as early as possible and to monitor and report genocidal threats to human life and society in order to prevent the recurrence of genocide, mass murder and ethnic cleansing.

2. We are committed to shouldering our responsibility to protect groups identified as potential victims of genocide, mass murder or ethnic cleansing, drawing upon the range of tools at our disposal to prevent such atrocities in accordance with international law and to fully upholding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

3. We are committed to ensuring that perpetrators of genocidal acts are brought to justice. We are also committed to supporting survivors of genocide to rebuild their communities and to return to normal life.

4. We are committed to supporting research into the possibilities of preventing genocide, mass murder and ethnic cleansing.

5. We are committed to educating the youth and the wider public against genocidal dangers of all kinds through formal and informal educational structures. We are also committed to disseminating knowledge of these dangers to those involved in government, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, humanitarian and peace support operations and the media.

6. We are committed to exploring, seriously and actively, the options presented at this Forum for action against genocidal threats, mass murders, deadly conflicts, ethnic cleansing as well as genocidal ideologies and incitement to genocide, including the concrete proposals presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

7. We are committed to cooperating in our search for effective measures against genocidal dangers with all members of the family of nations, in the United Nations and other relevant global and regional organizations as well as with non-governmental organizations, labour organizations, the media and with the business and academic communities.

United Nations

S/2004/224

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 March 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the People's Republic of China in February 2004 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-27858 (E) 240304

Annex to the letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (February 2004)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the People's Republic of China in February 2004, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues on its agenda, including Côte d'Ivoire, Kosovo, Cyprus, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the mission to Central Africa, the Middle East/Palestine, Timor-Leste, Somalia, Georgia and Haiti. Thanks to the cooperation of the Council members and support of the Secretariat, the work of the Council in February proceeded in a smooth and orderly manner, with due priority given to some prominent issues without neglecting other questions on the Council's agenda.

In total, during the month of February, the Security Council held 11 official meetings and conducted informal consultations on 9 occasions. It adopted three resolutions and two presidential statements. The President also made three statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

Through its web site (www.china-un.org), the presidency published in a regular and timely fashion the programme of work of the Council as well as activities carried out by the Council in February.

Africa

Mission to Central Africa

On 17 February, the Council held a public meeting on the progress report of the Secretary-General on the recommendations of the Security Council mission to Central Africa (S/2004/52). The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, introduced the progress report and briefed the Council on the latest developments in the region. Council members acknowledged the important contributions that the Security Council mission had made to the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi and welcomed the positive developments in both countries. They expressed the hope that those developments would help to create conditions for the convocation of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 4 February, the Council held consultations on Côte d'Ivoire. Following the consultations, the Council adopted resolution 1527 (2004), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) until 27 February 2004. After a series of consultations, the Council unanimously adopted, on 27 February, resolution 1528 (2004), by which it decided to establish the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) as from 4 April 2004. The Council also decided to renew the mandate of MINUCI and the authorization of ECOWAS

forces until 4 April 2004, and requested the Secretary-General to transfer authority from MINUCI and the ECOWAS forces to UNOCI on that date. The Secretary-General welcomed the adoption of the resolution, saying that a strengthened United Nations presence would be conducive to the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire as well as the stability of the entire West African subregion.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 11 February, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, William Lacy Swing. Council members expressed their satisfaction at the recent positive developments in the peace and national reconciliation process, while emphasizing that much work needed to be done during the period leading up to national elections scheduled to be held in 2005. They called upon the international community to assist the Government of National Unity and Transition in its efforts to implement the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition. After the meeting, the President of the Council made a statement to the press (see appendix).

Somalia

On 25 February, the Council held consultations on Somalia, at which the Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Winston Tubman, briefed Council members on the report of the Secretary-General dated 12 February 2004 (S/2004/115) as well as developments after the reporting period covered in the Secretary-General's report. Members of the Council reiterated their firm support for the Somali national reconciliation process launched under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. They welcomed the signing of the Declaration on the Harmonization of Various Issues Proposed by the Somali Delegates at the Somali Consultative Meetings on 29 January 2004 as an important step towards lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia, and called upon the Somali parties to build on the progress achieved thus far. They condemned those obstructing the Somali peace process. They also expressed their serious concern about the humanitarian situation in Somalia. At the conclusion of the consultations, the Council adopted a presidential statement on Somalia (S/PRST/2004/3).

Asia

Iraq

On 9 February, the Secretary-General briefed the Council during its consultations on his decision to send a United Nations fact-finding mission to Iraq led by Lakhdar Brahimi. Council members voiced their full support for the Secretary-General's decision and expressed their belief that the mission would be conducive to the political process in Iraq.

On 24 February, the Council heard briefings by the Permanent Representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in accordance with paragraph 24 of Security Council resolution 1483 (2003). The Permanent Representative of the United States focused his briefing on the political developments in Iraq as well as issues related to security, disarmament and the oil-for-food programme. The Permanent Representative of the

United Kingdom focused his briefing on the provision of basic services in Iraq and issues related to economic reconstruction, human rights and justice in that country.

As the report of the fact-finding mission was made available to Council members before the meeting, they welcomed the report during the briefing and expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Mr. Brahimi and his team. They also stressed the need to adhere to the date of 30 June for transferring sovereignty to Iraq, and voiced support for an expanded United Nations role in the political process in Iraq.

Timor-Leste

On 20 February, the Council held a public meeting on Timor-Leste. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, introduced the special report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/117). The Under-Secretary-General listed the remarkable progress in Timor-Leste since the establishment of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). He also pointed out that, as the conclusion of the mandate of UNMISET approached, the goal of true self-sufficiency on the part of Timor-Leste had not yet been achieved. The Secretariat had concluded that the continued presence of a peacekeeping operation for an additional one-year "consolidation phase" was essential to reinforce and strengthen what had been achieved to date. José Ramos-Horta, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, attended the meeting and called for the continuation of a peacekeeping component in the proposed new United Nations mission in Timor-Leste. Council members reiterated their support for Timor-Leste in its nation-building endeavour and concurred with the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of UNMISET for an additional year. A number of countries, including some ASEAN members and the representative of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries also made statements at the meeting.

Middle East

On 18 February, the Council held its monthly open briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen, briefed the Council, stating that the window of opportunity for resuming the peace process — based primarily on the stated willingness of both sides to talk to each other — remained open. He hoped that a first meeting between the two Prime Ministers would be held at the earliest possible date. He said that Mr. Sharon's plan of unilateral withdrawal could not take place in a vacuum, and without cooperation from the Palestinian Authority and the assistance of the international community an orderly withdrawal was unlikely. He appealed to the parties to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the possible resumption of the peace process based on the withdrawal initiative, and the Quartet to re-engage with the parties and revitalize its efforts. In the informal consultations following the briefing, members of the Council agreed in general with the assessment of the situation by the Special Coordinator.

Europe

Cyprus

On 9 February, during informal consultations, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the Cyprus question. He informed the Council that, after careful consideration and encouraging contacts he had had on the Cyprus question during and following his recent trip to Europe, he had decided to invite the leaders of the two parties to the Cyprus problem, together with the representatives of Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom, to New York to have a meeting on 10 February. His expectation was that, following the meeting, the parties would return to the island to continue negotiations on the basis of the revised plan that he had put forward on 26 February 2003. The Secretary-General emphasized that it was in the interests of all concerned to resolve the question before 1 May 2004 and that, with good will and determination on all sides, as well as strong support from the international community, that objective could be achieved. Members of the Council expressed their welcome and support to the Secretary-General's initiative.

Georgia

On 26 February, the Council held an open meeting at the request of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations, at which the President of Georgia, Mikhail Saakashvili, briefed the Council on recent developments in the country as well as his vision regarding the peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia.

Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro

On 6 February, the Council held a public meeting on Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Harri Holkeri, introduced the Secretary-General's report (S/2004/71) on the implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) and the activities of UNMIK, with a specific emphasis on the implementation by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of the eight standards prescribed in the "standards before status" policy. He told the Council that he would soon submit an implementation work plan, which would set out clearly the actions necessary to reach the standards. Council members reaffirmed their support for a multi-ethnic inclusive community in Kosovo based on resolution 1244 (1999) and the "standards before status" policy. They also expressed their support for the review process launched by the Special Representative.

The Assistant Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, and the Permanent Representatives of Albania and Ireland, the latter on behalf of the European Union, made statements at the meeting.

Haiti

In February, the Council met on six occasions in both informal consultations and official meetings to discuss the situation in Haiti.

On 18 February, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the Council (see appendix), expressing deep concern about the increasing violence and deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Haiti. He condemned acts of

violence and called upon all those who perpetrated them to immediately stop such acts. The Government and the opposition were asked to conduct dialogue and overcome their differences peacefully and democratically through constitutional means.

On 25 February, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, on the latest developments in the situation in Haiti. The President made another statement to the press after the briefing (ibid.). He deplored the decision by the opposition in Haiti to reject the Plan of Action of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and stressed that the implementation of the plan offered the best opportunity to resolve the problems in Haiti.

At the request of the Government of Jamaica on behalf of CARICOM, the Council held a public meeting on 26 February. K. D. Knight, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, and Frederick A. Mitchell, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Public Service of the Bahamas, as well as representatives of other Member States, spoke at the meeting. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica expressed the hope that the Security Council would soon authorize the deployment of a peacekeeping operation to Haiti to help to stabilize the situation and restore law and order. At the end of the meeting the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/4) commending and supporting OAS and CARICOM for their lead role in promoting a peaceful solution and for seeking to re-establish confidence among the parties, in particular through their Plan of Action. The Council stated that it would consider urgently options for international engagement, including that of an international force in support of a political settlement in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

On 29 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1529 (2004), by which it authorized the deployment to Haiti of a Multinational Interim Force for a period of not more than three months. It expressed its readiness to establish a follow-on United Nations stabilization force, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council recommendations concerning the size, structure and mandates of such a force preferably within 30 days. It also welcomed the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Adviser for Haiti, and requested the Secretary-General to elaborate a programme of action for the United Nations to assist the constitutional process and support humanitarian and economic assistance.

Appendix

Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council in February 2004

Democratic Republic of the Congo (11 February)

Members of the Security Council heard this morning a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They were encouraged by the recent positive developments in the peace and national reconciliation process. They reiterated their full support to the Government of National Unity and Transition and to the efforts of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

Members of the Council shared the concern expressed by the International Committee in Support of the Transition with regard to the work needed to be done leading up to national elections scheduled to be held in 2005. They stressed the need for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Congolese combatants to be implemented and the need for a national coordinator to ensure a unified approach by the Government of National Unity and Transition and the urgency for significant laws to be passed. They also stressed the need for the extension of State authority, security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law and economic reconstruction, an end to the illegal exploitation of natural resources and to impunity.

Members of the Council called upon the international community to assist the Government of National Unity and Transition in its endeavour. They took note in this regard of the progress evinced and the necessary actions agreed at the meeting on 9 February 2004 on security sector reform, which can serve as a solid basis for integrating and restructuring the military and the police.

Haiti (18 February)

Members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern over the increasing violence and political crisis in Haiti leading to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, including the loss of many lives.

Council members strongly condemned these acts of violence and called upon all those who perpetrate them to put an end to such actions. They also expressed their deep concern at the massive violations of human rights occurring in Haiti.

Members of the Council called upon the Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the opposition sectors to restore confidence and dialogue, and overcome their differences peacefully and democratically through constitutional means.

Council members commended the work undertaken by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and urged all concerned to collaborate with it.

Members of the Security Council expressed their strong support for the initiatives of the relevant regional organizations, the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States, to bring an end to the crisis.

Haiti (25 February)

The members of the Security Council condemn the continued violence and political crisis in Haiti that has led to the loss of lives, the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and the abuse of human rights.

The members of the Council deplore the decision by the opposition to reject the Plan of Action of the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States, and call upon the Government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the opposition to accept and implement the provisions of that plan and of pertinent OAS resolutions. Implementation of the plan offers the best opportunity to restore confidence and dialogue and for Haitians to resolve differences peacefully, democratically and constitutionally.

The members of the Council urge the international community to respond to the serious humanitarian situation in Haiti. They call upon all sides in Haiti's conflict to facilitate the distribution of food and medicine, to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those who need it and to respect United Nations personnel and facilities involved in these activities.

The members of the Council call upon both the Government and the armed rebels to respect human rights and to cease the use of violence to advance political goals. Those responsible for human rights violations should be held accountable.

The members of the Security Council will continue to monitor closely the situation in Haiti.

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Security Council

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English
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Letter dated 18 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that today I received a letter from Mr. Mohammed Bahr Al-Uloom, Interim President of the Iraqi Governing Council (see annex II), and a letter from Mr. L. Paul Bremer, Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority (see annex IV), both of which were dated 17 March 2004. The letters which I sent in reply to those communications are reproduced in annexes I and III to this letter.

You will note that the Governing Council has requested the assistance of the United Nations in the formation of an interim Iraqi government, to which sovereignty will be transferred on 30 June 2004, as well as in the preparations for direct elections to be held before the end of January 2005.

You will also note that the Coalition Provisional Authority is fully supportive of the Governing Council's request, and has assured me that it will cooperate closely with the United Nations and the Governing Council to provide the security required for the United Nations to carry out these missions.

It is my intention, therefore, in line with the mandates authorized by the Security Council, and in keeping with the commitment of the United Nations to assist the people of Iraq, as they request, to ask my Special Adviser, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and his team, as well as an electoral assistance team, to return to Iraq as soon as possible.

The success of their efforts will, of course, require the full support and assistance of the members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you could bring this letter and its annexes to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex I

[Original: English]

Letter dated 18 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Interim President of the Iraqi Governing Council

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 17 March 2004, which I received today. I would also like to thank you for sending me a copy of the Transitional Administrative Law.

I have taken note of the Governing Council's request for the United Nations to lend advice and assistance in the formation of an interim Iraqi government, to which sovereignty will be transferred on 30 June 2004, as well as in the preparations for direct elections to be held before the end of January 2005.

The United Nations remains committed to doing everything within its capacity to assist the people of Iraq, when and as they request. I have therefore asked my Special Adviser, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and his team, as well as an electoral assistance team, to return to Iraq as soon as possible, in order to lend the advice and assistance you have requested.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks, in advance, to the Governing Council and the Coalition Provisional Authority for providing the security required for the United Nations to carry out these missions.

I am concurrently informing the members of the United Nations Security Council of my intention and am copying this exchange of letters to its President.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

Annex II

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Interim President of the Iraqi Governing Council addressed to the Secretary-General

The Governing Council is pleased to send you a copy of the Transitional Administrative Law of the Iraqi State, which provides a foundation for Iraq's democracy and paves the way to a permanent constitution. The Law was approved by the Governing Council unanimously and signed on Monday, 8 March 2004.

This Law represents an important step towards the establishment of a democratic, pluralist, federal system. It safeguards basic human rights, which has been a goal of the Iraqi people for years.

We continue to believe that the United Nations must play an important role in Iraq. We thank you, on behalf of the Iraqi people, for sending the United Nations delegation led by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi to Iraq and for the efforts it exerted. The Governing Council appreciates the advice and assistance of the United Nations as we look to the next challenge in the political transition: the formation of an interim Iraqi government to which sovereignty will be transferred on 30 June 2004. We welcome United Nations consultation in the efforts we are exerting in the broad national dialogue regarding the shape and scope of this interim government.

We also look forward to United Nations assistance in providing advice and observations needed to ensure that direct elections are held before the end of January 2005. The experience and capability of the United Nations will be invaluable both in the creation of the infrastructure and in the conduct of the elections.

Time is of the essence to ensure the credible national direct elections take place as scheduled in the Transitional Administrative Law of the Iraqi State.

Please accept our deepest appreciation for the past efforts of the United Nations. We hope that the United Nations will be able to return to Iraq as soon as possible.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Bahr **Al-Uloom**
President, Governing Council

Annex III

Letter dated 18 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 17 March 2004, which I received today.

I have taken note that the Coalition Provisional Authority is fully supportive of the Governing Council's request for the United Nations to lend advice and assistance in the formation of an interim Iraqi government, to which sovereignty will be transferred on 30 June 2004, as well as in the preparations for direct elections to be held before the end of January 2005.

The United Nations remains committed to doing everything within its capacity to assist the people of Iraq, when and as they request. I have therefore asked my Special Adviser, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and his team, as well as an electoral assistance team, to return to Iraq as soon as possible, in order to lend the advice and assistance that has been requested. They will be in contact with you in the coming days to discuss the details of their arrival.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Coalition Provisional Authority, in advance, for providing for their security and other logistics support.

I am concurrently informing the members of the United Nations Security Council of my intention and am copying this exchange of letters to its President.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

Annex IV

Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority addressed to the Secretary-General

Thank you for sending the fact-finding mission led by Mr. Brahimi to Iraq last month. The Coalition Provisional Authority is deeply grateful for the willingness of the United Nations to respond so quickly to the Iraqi Governing Council's request for assistance.

The Governing Council took an important step towards the establishment of an independent, democratic state with the adoption of the Transitional Administrative Law on 8 March 2004. In a letter dated 17 March addressed to you, it has now invited the United Nations to return to Iraq urgently to assist with both the formation of the interim government and in the preparations for national direct elections. The Coalition Provisional Authority also believes that the United Nations has a significant role to play in assisting Iraq as it continues with this process.

We hope that Mr. Brahimi and his team will be able to return to Iraq as soon as possible to help build consensus among Iraqis on the powers, structure and composition of the interim government and the process for its establishment. We also welcome the advice and assistance of the United Nations in the creation of the electoral infrastructure and hope that the United Nations elections experts will arrive in Iraq early in the week of 21 March.

Let me assure you that we will cooperate closely with the United Nations and the Governing Council to provide the security required for the United Nations to carry out these missions.

We greatly value the commitment of the United Nations to assisting the Iraqi people. I look forward to the return of the United Nations to Iraq as soon as possible.

(*Signed*) L. Paul **Bremer III**
Administrator, Coalition Provisional Authority